Development of most backward districts

†5627. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a multi-purpose plan under Minimum Common programme for the development of most backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof;

(c) the names of districts covered under the said plan;

(d) whether any time-bound programme has been evolved for implementation of this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) A Committee (headed by Principal Adviser, Planning Commission) was constituted in 1997 to, *inter alia*, identify the 100 most backward / poorest districts in the country. The broad parameters adopted by the Committee to analyse the causes of backwardness, included indicators of deprivation (poverty ratio) and social and economic infrastructure. The 100 most backward/poorest districts identified by the Committee included 38 districts in Bihar, 19 districts in Madhya Pradesh, 17 districts in Uttar Pradesh, 10 districts in Maharashtra, 4 districts each in Orissa and West Bengal, 2 districts each in Rajasthan and Sikkim and 1 district each in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

The Report of the Committee has since been circulated to all States/ UTs for their comments. There is no decision to have special action plan for these 100 most backward and poorest districts.

Construction of rural roads in Uttar Pradesh

†5628. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are district-wise comprehensive details of construction of new roads by Government in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total amount of funds sanctioned and actually allocated by Government for construction of roads during the above period;

(c) whether Government propose to take up construction of certain new

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.